

## Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 140772

FOR TERRY LEITZELL, LOS DEL

FOL REPEAT KUWAIT 3183 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON DTD 11 JUN.

QUOTE

UNCLAS KUWAITI 3183

REF: KUWAIT 2780

1. SUMMARY: THE GOK HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY A STATEMENT OF KUWAITI VIEWS ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION ISSUES. THE STATEMENT UNDERLINES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLLUTION AND THE KUWAITI SHIPPING INDUSTRY, FAVORS SEGREGATED BALLAST BUT OPPOSES DOUBLE BOTTOMS, AND ASSERTS THAT INERT GAS AND BACK-UP RADAR SYSTEMS SHOULD BE "FULLY DISCUSSED." IT ALSO NOTES THAT EXPERTS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES ARE CONFERRING ON CREW STANDARDS, AND IT DOES NOT FAVOR MOVING UP THE IMCO CONFERENCE ON WATCHKEEPING AND TRAINING IF THE LATTER INTERFERES WITH THE FORMER. FINALLY THE GOK STATEMENT SAYS THAT KUWAIT DOES NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE US-PROPOSED IMCO  
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PLENARY CONFERENCE ON POLLUTION ISSUES, IF THE AGENDA WERE ACCEPTABLE, BUT IT NOTES THAT A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PERSIAN GULF-GULF OF OMAN CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD BEFORE THEN (SEPTEMBER 1977) WHICH MAY LINK KUWAITI POLICY TO A REGIONAL PLICY ON MARINE POLLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AS PROMISED LAST MONTH (REFTEL), THE GOK HAS SENT TO THE EMBASSY A STATEMENT OF VIEWS ON IMCO MARINE POLLUTION ISSUES AND ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S MARCH 17 SPEECH ON MARINE POLLUTION, IN A LETTER TO THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS UNDER SEC. THE SUBSTANTIVE TEXT OF THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT ESPECIALLY FROM OIL SPILLAGES TO A VULNERABLE ECO-SYSTEM SUCH AS THAT OF THE SEMI-ENCLOSED ARABIAN GULF. IN THIS REGARD AND CONCERNING SHIP SPILLAGES THE RECORD INDICATES THAT KUWAIT HAS SPARED NO EFFORTS TO CARRY OUT PREVENTIVE AND PUNITIVE MEASURES.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT IS, HOWEVER, GRADUALLY DEVELOPING ITS SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND IN THIS REGARD ITS POLICY SHOULD BE GEARED TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUCH AS KUWAIT.

KUWAIT SHIPPING COMPANIES, AS A POLICY, HAVE ALWAYS ENDEAVORED TO ACQUIRE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED VESSELS, FITTED WITH THE LATEST EQUIPMENT. OUR ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IS IN SYMPATHY WITH EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE SUB-STANDARD SHIPS. THE FITTING OF SUCH EXTRA EQUIPMENT ITEMS THAT MAY HELP IN THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS BY KUWAITI VESSELS HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED.

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IN SPECIFICS I WISH TO STATE THE FOLLOWING POINTS CONSISTING OF THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT:

IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY KUWAIT THAT SEGREGATED BALLAST ON EXISTING TANKERS OF 70,000 TONS DEADWEIGHT OR MORE IS NECESSARY PRIOR TO THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE 1973 CONVENTION. THIS IN OUR VIEW COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY A PROPER L.O.T. SYSTEM AND BALLAST RECEPTION FACILITIES WHICH IN OUR CASE IS A COMPULSARY REQUIREMENT DUE TO THE "SPECIAL AREA" CONDITIONS OF THE (GULF AREAS). NO FURTHER STRINGENT POLICY IS BELIEVED NECESSARY.

THE DOUBLE-BOTTOM PROPOSAL WAS DEFEATED AT THE 1973 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. KUWAIT DID NOT SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL DUE TO WHAT MAY BE INVOLVED IN FITTING THESE DOUBLE-BOTTOM TANKS AND A DROUGHT LIMITATION FOR TANKERS TRADING WITHIN THE ARABIAN GULF. FURTHERMORE EXCESSIVE CONSTRUCTION

EXPENSES OF THESE TANKERS COULD CAUSE REGRESSIVE EFFECTS ON THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY OF KUWAIT. THESE VIEWS HAVE NOT ALTERED.  
HSWARDING INERT GAS SYSTEMS/BACK-UP RADAR SYSTEMS/ IMPROVED EMERGENCY STANDARDS/ IN PRINCIPLE WE ARE IN AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, THOSE REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE FULLY DISCUSSED BEFORE LEGISLATION ON GLOBAL BASIS.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER STATES MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB NATIONS, THE POLICY REGARDING CREW STANDARDS AND TRAINING IS BEING DEVELOPED. I UNDERSTAND THAT CERTAIN PREPARATORY MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD BY A GROUP OF EXPERTS FROM ARAB STATES TO THAT END. THE STATE OF KUWAIT WOULD ONLY APPROVE SWITCHING THE SCHEDULE OF THE CONFERENCE ON WATCHKEEPING AND TRAINING TO AN EARLIER DATE  
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IF IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH THE WORKING OF THIS GROUP.

THE STATE OF KUWAIT HAS NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO ATTENDING A CONFERENCE AT THE PLENIPOTENTIARY LEVEL. BEFORE A DEFINITE REPLY COULD BE GIVEN WE SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND CONSIDER THE AGENDA AND THE VARIOUS TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN SUCH A CONFERENCE. KUWAIT IS NEITHER A MEMBER OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE NOR THE COUNCIL OF IMCO; KUWAIT IS, HOWEVER, A MEMBER OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND OUR DETAILED VIEWS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE ON THIS MATTER.

FINALLY IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FROM OCTOBER 1977 THE POLICY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT MAY BE LINKED TO A REGIONAL POLICY ENVISAGED THROUGH A CONFERENCE OF PLENIPOTENTIARIES TO BE HELD IN KUWAIT 29TH SEPTEMBER-7TH OCTOBER ON THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT OF THE REGION OF THE ARABIAN GULF, GULF OF OMAN AND A SMALL SECTION OF THE ARABIAN SEA. THE PARTIES OF THE REGION CONCERNED WILL BE BAHRAIN, IRAN, IRAQ, OMAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND KUWAIT. NATURALLY MARINE POLLUTION BY OIL FROM SHIPS SHALL BE A MAJOR ISSUE IN THIS CONFERENCE AND I BELIEVE IMCO HAS PREPARED A SPECIAL PROTOCOL ON THIS SUBJECT.

IN CONCLUSION. MR. AMBASSADOR, I FULLY APPRECIATE

THE PROBLEMS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITH  
RESPECT TO THE ISSUES OF OIL POLLUTION FROM  
SHIPS. HOWEVER, THESE PROBLEMS SHOULD ALSO BE  
VIEWED ON A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, TAKING INTO  
CONSIDERATION THE NEEDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
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COMMUNITY WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS  
OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. END TEXT.  
SUTHERLAND

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## Message Attributes

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